

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /080 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6216

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 1097

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, PGOV, NI, XA

SUBJECT: AFRICAN ATTITUDES TOWARD NIGERIA: MOZAMBIQUE'S VIEW

REF: STATE 208244

1. SUMMARY: MOZAMBIQUE DOES NOT REGARD NIGERIA AS ONE OF THE "NATURAL ALLIES", BUT IT DOES RECOGNIZE AND RESPECT NIGER'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE IN AFRICA AND INTERNATIONAL FORA. FOR THIS REASON, MOZAMBIQUE IS PREPARED TO LET NIGERIA ACT AS A SPOKESMAN FOR MOZAMBIQUE ON ISSUES WHERE THEY SHARE A COMMON OUTLOOK, PARTICULARLY ON SOUTHERN AFRICA. END SUMMARY.

2. MOZAMBIQUE'S VIEWS ON PRESENT NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT: MOZAMBIQUE DOES NOT LOOK UPON THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT AS A "PROGRESSIVE" REGIME AND DOES NOT COUNT THE LAGOS GOVERNMENT AS ONE OF ITS NATURAL SOCIALIST ALLIES. HOWEVER, MOZAMBIQUE AND NIGERIA ENJOY GOOD RELATIONS, PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE MOZAMBIQUE'S LEADERS RECOGNIZE AND RESPECT NIGERIA'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INFLUENCE AND IMPORTANCE.

3. NIGERIA'S ROLE IN AFRICA. MOZAMBIQUE HAS WELCOMED NIGERIA'S INVOLVEMENT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (WHERE THE TWO SHARE SIMILAR VIEWS)
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AND HAS BEEN PLEASED WITH NIGERIAS'S (A) SUPPORT FOR AGOSTINHO NETO'S GOVERNMENT IN ANGOLA; (B) ITS GENEROUS FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS (C) ITS SUPPORT FOR THE CAUSE OF INDEPENDENCE IN ZIMBABWE AND NAMIBIA; AND (D) ITS STRONG STAND AGAINST APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA. AS A RESULT OF NIGERIA'S POSITION ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES, MOZAMBIQUE'S LEADERS ARE NOW LOOKING INCREASINGLY TO NIGERIA AS

A POTENTIAL SOURCE OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AND MILITARY AID.

3. NIGERIA AS A SPOKESMAN FOR AFRICA: ON THOSE ISSUES ON WHICH MOZAMBIQUE AND NIGERIA SHARE A COMMON OUTLOOK, PARTICULARLY THE LIBERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, MOZAMBIQUE IS PREPARED TO ALLOW NIGERIA TO TAKE A FORWARD POSITION AND TO ACT AS SPOKESMAN FOR MOZAMBIQUE AND THE REST OF THE CONTINENT. HOWEVER, ON BROADER ISSUES (E.G. THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE AND THE PRINCIPLES OF NON-ALIGNMENT) AND ON INTRA-AFRICAN ISSUES WHICH INVOLVE SOME OF ITS NATURAL ALLIES (E.G. ANGOLA VS. ZAIRE AND SOMALIA VS. ETHIOPIA), MOZAMBIQUE WOULD OBJECT TO THE NOTION THAT NIGERIA IS SPEAKING FOR IT OR THE "TRULY PROGRESSIVE" STATES ON AFRICA.
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